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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/744,809	04/13/2001	Jose Rojas-Chapana	2694-0131P	4836

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EXAMINER

BOS, STEVEN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1754

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/744,809	ROJAS-CHAPANA ET AL.	
	Examiner Steven Bos	Art Unit 1754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2003 .

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 9,10 and 12-21 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 9,13 and 19-21 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 10,12 and 14-18 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e); was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 6, 2003 has been entered.

Claims 19,20 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

In claim 19, "wherein the at least one sulfur containing amino acid is an amide, an ester, or mixture thereof" does not further limit claim 9 since that claim requires that the amino acid is selected from cysteine, methionine, homocysteine and an amide or an ester thereof."

In claim 20 the same limitations are recited as are already recited in claim 13 from which it depends.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 9,19,21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In claims 9,21, "and optionally one or more salt" is new matter. Applicant points to instant pg. 3, 3rd paragraph and pg. 6, 1st paragraph for support however these nowhere mention the instantly claimed "one or more salts" or that such salts are "optional."

In claim 19, "wherein the at least one sulfur containing amino acid is an amide, an ester, or mixture thereof" is new matter.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for the amino acid selected from cysteine, methionine, homocysteine and an amide or ester thereof, does not reasonably provide enablement for the amino acid is an amide, an ester or mixture thereof. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 9,13,20,21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 9, in the preamble it is recited that the bacteria participate in the leaching process, whereas in the body of the claim it is recited that the bacteria are optional and in the wherein clause the bacteria may be added to the discharging fluid so that the bacteria would not appear to participate in the leaching process. The combination of the above recited in claim 9 render the claim confusing and indefinite as to exactly what is required by the claim.

Claims 9 and 21 have improper Markush language as they contain the word "and" twice in the grouping. See MPEP 2173.05(h).

In claim 13, "one or more one sulfur containing amino acids" is ungrammatical.

In claim 13, "the one or more one sulfur containing amino acids, or amide or ester derivatives thereof, is equal to or less than $8 \times 10^{-3}M$ " lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s). It is suggested that "the at least one sulfur containing amino acid" be recited.

In claim 20, "the one or more one sulfur containing amino acids, or amide or ester derivatives thereof, is equal to or less than $8 \times 10^{-3}M$ " lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s). It is suggested that "the at least one sulfur containing amino acid" be recited.

Claims 10,12,14-18 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim.

Applicant's arguments filed June 6, 2003 are persuasive.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Bos whose telephone number is 703-308-2537. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8AM-6PM but is on increased flexitime sch:

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached on 703-308-3837. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Steven Bos
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1754

sjb
July 16, 2003